



WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

April 12, 2017

Jessica Murphy
State of Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Resources
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 11th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-1534

TN. DEPT. OF ENV. & CONSERVATION
APR 19 2017
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Subject: Notice of Violation
NPDES TN0056103
Maury County, Tennessee

Dear Jessica,

Per your instruction, this written response has been prepared to address a recent Notice of Violation letter of March 17, 2017. Columbia STP appeared on the Quarterly Non-Compliance Report (QNCR) for the fourth quarter of FY16 for effluent violations of Nitrogen, total ammonia. Following is a summary of the cause and subsequent corrective actions associated with the exceedance:

Cause of the Violation

Upon initial investigation, there was no readily identifiable cause for the elevated levels of effluent Nitrogen, total ammonia. All treatment plant equipment and processes appeared to be functioning normally and optimally. In an attempt to identify a pattern associated with daily total ammonia levels, a comprehensive examination of significant industrial user (SIU) discharges was initiated. After an extensive effort to correlate SIU flow patterns with elevated total ammonia levels, the cause of the nitrification inhibition experienced at the Columbia STP was narrowed to a constituent present in a SIU waste stream.

Corrective Action and Results Achieved

As a result of the findings, the SIU was issued a Letter of Non-Compliance. In addition, the SIU is now required to more frequently monitor their waste stream for TKN and CTAS. Further, the SIU has modified their discharge pattern to more effectively control and meter the process waste stream being discharged to the Columbia STP. Ammonia levels at the Columbia STP have been below the daily maximum and monthly average permitted limit for Nitrogen, total ammonia for the past two monthly operation report (MOR) periods.

Something Good Around Every Corner

1244 Treatment Plant Road Columbia, Tennessee 38401 Phone 931.560.1001



In summary, it appears the above referenced corrective action has normalized the elevated levels of Nitrogen, total ammonia at the Columbia STP. Columbia will strive to maintain water quality and continue to work with the SIU to minimize the potential for a recurrence of the issue.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (931) 560-1013 or mwilliams@columbiatn.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Williams", with a small blue dot above the "i" in "Williams".

Mark Williams, Director
City of Columbia Wastewater Department

cc: Honorable Dean Dickey
DWR, Columbia EFO